Ho Jun Kang

ESL 220-2

Leah Keys Stahl

Personal Paragraph, draft 2

June 16, 2011

Do you want to avoid military duty?

I saw one of sentences in the article about the death in the army on the Internet: “In Korea, the thousands of soldiers died by various accidents in 2010 even though there was no war”. This is not inconsiderable number of the dead. This is one of big reasons why Korean guys don’t want to go army. So most of them delay their dates when they have to go to army. Some of them even evade their military services. Since I also had served in the military for 2 years like most Korean men, I understand this avoidance of view; however, I have a different idea about going to army. During the time in the army, I would increase lots of sense of confidence, and this period was my turning point in my life. Although the army life was dangerous and difficult, joining the army gave me the lesson, “*walk, walk, and walk*”.

Since one event which happened on June 27 of 2007, I have always been walking on the street, so walking become my habits in my life before I know it. The memory in that day is one of my own experiences in army life. So far, I could not erase this and keep this in my mind.

In August of 2005, at the age of 22, I entered the military service, and I was trained in various fields. In the end of the military drill, that day which I could not erase was coming. I, one of 2 platoon members, was supposed to march 60 kilometers in full gear: carrying a 25 kilograms bag and 2.5 Kilograms K-2 guns. Unfortunately, it rained on that particular day, so the weight of the bag was increased. In spite of the worst situations, I departed with my comrades for my destination. Before I departed, I had no belief about that I could success this task. This made me be depressed. After 2 hours of marching, I was still walking and walking. Due to this difficult situation, I thought that I hate the military duty which was occurred by Korean War. Moreover, I was quite eager to give up this marching, but I couldn’t. My bag pressed down on my shoulder, and I could not control my steps.

In the half of course, I took a rest only 10 minutes. Since then, I walked over and over. During the walking, I had mingled feelings over this circumstance through my mind. Among them, one was that this marching has the meaning beyond just walking; this is a process of achieving goals like defending my country and family. I realized that if I steadily do my best on my tasks like marching, even if I did the smaller amounts of the tasks, I can achieve what I want. This thought inspired to me to encourage walking. In the end, I completed this task. Since this day, I who roughly do my work have become a hard worker. Only 9 hours in this day changed me. Since this event, a word, “rough”, disappeared in my life. Whenever I do my task, even if it is unimportant, I don’t roughly do my work. When I become lazy, I always recall this memory and scream in my mind “*Don’t give up, and try to do your best like marching*”. This memory became one of my valuable treasures in my life.

Even though many Korean men can get something that will help their life in the army, nowadays many Korean men try to avoid their military duties. At first, I also had a negative idea about going to army for two reasons. First of all, they think that the time, 2 years, in the army is not valuable. Sometimes, the army does not consider the efficiency of tasks when they work or treat their works. Yet, this time is worth from my experience about army. I could look back on my life, and plan my future. Who say that the army is valueless?

Next, in digital age, before most of Korean men enlist in the army, they have always lived in convenient life for 20 years by doing what they want, such as playing video games, taking travels, or watching movies. On the other hand, there is no free in the army. As a daily schedule, they should learn various skills and do a lot of their workloads every day. These cause them to gain much stress, so in the end they unfortunately make a decision to commit suicide. But judging from my experience, this pain is temporary. If I like other soldiers did not overcome these difficulties, I would not become stronger person. Since I defeat these, my life will become regular, so I grow strong in my health. Who want to become a weak person by shirking the army?

Military service had great positive effects on my life unlike my expectation. By spending my time, 2 years, on army, I got invaluable things: a lot of sense of confidence, responsibility, and the correct attitude.

Today, I am *walking* and *walking* again for my goal in my life. Although you can get various things which help in your life from the experience in the military service, do you still want to avoid this duty?